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February 28, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUNDY

SUBJECT: Lard to Cuba

Here are some pertinent facts. I understand that the Secretary intends to brief the President on this today.

1. The latest information is that no American lard is involved.
2. There is a Cuban trade mission in Canada which has contacted several Canadian companies which have American names (e.g. Swift, Armour); however, our present information is that these companies are probably controlled by Canadians. The Cubans have indicated that they are interested in buying lard and the Canadian companies have indicated they are interested in selling.
3. While this probably is now academic since the lard seems to be of Canadian origin, here is some miscellaneous information about U.S. trade with Cuba.
 - (a) In 1962, regular commercial shipments of food and medicines to Cuba totaled \$389,000 (\$11,000 for food, \$378,000 for medicines). In 1963, commercial shipments of food and medicines to Cuba totaled \$25,000 (\$5,000 for food, \$20,000 for medicines).
 - (b) We are still trying to get a horseback estimate of the value of the shipments of gift parcels to Cuba during 1962 and 1963.
 - (c) Under the prisoner exchange deal, \$49.4 million worth of commodities were exported to Cuba during 1962 and 1963. Of this, \$2.7 million was insecticides, while the balance was food and medicine.
 - (d) We do not permit the shipment of food and medicine to North Korea, North Vietnam, and Communist China. They apparently receive nothing - with a few minor exceptions (e.g. shipments to diplomatic missions in these countries).

Gordon Chase

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